

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1901

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AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 5641

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN PN

SUBJECT: ISSUES AT 29TH UNGA

REFS: A) STATE 184584

B) STATE 188959

C) STATE 192560

SUMMARY. WE HAVE REVIEWED KEY ISSUES WITH FONMIN OFFICIAL WHO WILL INFORM FONMIN TACK OF U.S. POSITIONS SEPTEMBER 25. PANAMA'S POSITION ON VARIOUS ISSUES WILL BE WORKED OUT IN NEW YORK BY AMBASSADOR BOYD AND FOREIGN MINISTER. OFFICIAL BELIEVED PANAMA WOULD SUPPORT U.S. ON KHMER REPRESENTATION AND KOREAN ISSUES.END SUMMARY.

1. CHEIF OF EMBASSY'S POLITICAL SECTION HAS PRESENTED U.S. POSITION ON KEY ISSUES AT 29TH UNGA TO JUVENAL CASTRELLON DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CONFERENCES AND TREATY AFFAIRS ON SEPTEMBER 23. CASTELLON EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR EXPOSITION OF VIEWS. CASTRELLON SAID PANAMA'S POSITON WOULD BE DECIDED UPON AFTER FOREIGN MINISTER TACK HAD CONSULTED WITH AMBASSADOR BOYD AND OTHER MEMBERS OF DELEGATION. CASTRELLON AND HIS STAFF WILL BEGIN BRIEFINGS OF FOREIGN MINISTER TACK ON SPETEMBER 25 AND WILL PRESENT U.S. VIEWS TO HIM THEN.

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2. CASTRELLON SAID HIS PERSONAL RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE KHMER

REPRESENTATION AND KOREAN ISSUE WOULD BE TO SUPPORT U.S. POSITION AND HE BELIEVED THAT FONMIN WOULD AGREE. HE ALSO AGREED TO MEET AGAIN WITH EMBOFF AFTER HIS CONFERENCES WITH TACK THIS WEEK AND PERHAPS THEN PROVIDE MORE DEFINITE INFORMATION CONCERNING PANAMA'S POSITION ON

VARIOUS ISSUES.

3. DURING EARLIER DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR JORDEN, FOREIGN MINISTER TACK SAID PANAMA DISTINGUISHES BETWEEN NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN AFRICA WHICH ARE FIGHTING TO WIN INDEPENDENCE FROM COLONIAL REGIMES AND GUERRILLA GROUPS ELSEWHERE, SUCH AS KHMER ROUGE, WHICH ARE ATTEMPTING TO OVERTHROW NONCOLONIAL GOVERNMENTS. WE ANTI-PATE, THEREFORE, THAT PANAMA'S DELEGATION WILL CONTINUE TO BE HELPFUL TO US ON KHMER REPRESENTATION AND KOREAN ISSUES. WE MUST KEEP IN MIND, HOWEVER, THAT PANAMA IS CONSTANTLY SEEKING SUPPORT OF OTHER NATIONS CONCERNING PANAMA CANAL ISSUE AND IS SEEKING OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVE AND ASSERT ITS "NATIONAL DIGNITY" AND INDEPENDENCE. AS PART OF THESE EFFORTS PANAMA IS IDENTIFYING WITH THIRD WORLD POSITIONS.

WE MUST BE ALERT, THEREFORE, FOR THE POSSIBILITY THAT PANAMA MIGHT MAKE

TRADEOFFS AND/OR SWITCHES IN ITS POSITIONS.

4. SOUTH KOREAN CHARGE, CHUNG NAM LEE, TOLD EMBOFF HE HAS RECEIVED INDICATIONS FROM FONMIN OFFICIALS THAT PANAMA WILL SUPPORT SOUTH KOREAN

POSITION. LEE SAID PANAMA'S ALTERNATIVE UN AMBASSADOR, JUAN ANTONIO STAGG, IS AN ADVOCATE OF SOUTH KOREAN POSITION AND HAD SAID HE WOULD DO WHAT HE COULD TO KEEP GOP'S POSITION POSITIVE. STAGG HAS BEEN EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE WITH EMBASSY AND WE RECOMMEND THAT USUN OFFICIALS CULTIVATE HIM. HE IS BASICALLY PRO-U.S. ON ALL ISSUES EXCEPT

CANAL.

JORDEN

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